Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 02844 261759Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /069 W
----------127769 261804Z /64
O 261720Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4702
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2844

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPER, PGOV, DR
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW OF MIAMI MAYOR FERRE WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER

1. MAYOR MAURICE A FERRE OF MIAMI CALLED ON AMBASSADOR THIS MORINING, IN RESPONSE TO WASHINGTON AND EMBASSY INITIATIVES, TO DEBRIEF ON FERRE'S ONE HOUR INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 24. MAYOR FERRE, WHO CALLED AT THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO RETURN TO MIAMI, INDICATED THAT HE INTENDED TO KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED. HE WOULD BE TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON EARLY NEXT WEEK WHERE HE EXPECTED TO TALK WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE BALAGUER CONVERSATION.

2. FERRE SAID THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAD BEEN VERY EMOTIONAL ABOUT THE APPROACHES WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND PARTICULARLY BY PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA. ACCORDING TO FERRE, HE SEEMED TO BE HURT BY THE LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS OWN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 02844 261759Z

MOTIVATIONS AND IN HIS ABILITY TO CONTROL THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

3. FERRE HAD EARLIER ON MAY 24 HAD A SESSION WITH VINICIO MARINO CASTILLO, (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH JCE BOARD CHARIMAN) WHO HAD PRESENTED THE THESIS DESCRIBED IN SANTO DOMINGO 2740, PARA 5 THAT THERE HAD BEEN TAMPERING WITH THE COMPUTERS AND THAT AS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

A RESULT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF VOTERS HAD IN FACT BEEN "DISENFRANCHISED." CASTILLO HAD AGAIN PUT FORTH THE NOTION THAT -- WHILE THERE WOULD BE NO NEW ELECTIONS -- THOSE VOTERS WHO HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS AT THE POLLS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNTIY TO DO SO. IT WOULD APPEAR FROM MAYOR FERRE'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER THAT THE LATTER WAS AWARE OF CASTILLO'S EFFORTS AND THAT, WHILE HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ENDORE THEM TO FERRE, THE ISSUE WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGURE IN HIS THINKING.
ANY EFFORT ALONG THESE LINES, HOWEVER, WOULD BE MADE WITHIN THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES OF THE COUNTRY. THE PRESIDENT APPARENTLY MADE CLEAR TO MAYOR FERRE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INTERFERENCE IN THESE PROCESSES BY HIMSELF OR THE MILITARY.
THE POINT WAS APPARENTLY MADE TO INCLUDE MAJOR GENERAL NEIT NIVAR SEIJAS, CHIEF OF POLICE, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE INTERVIEW.

4. MAYOR FERRE QUOTES PRESIDENT BALAGUER AS SAYING THAT HE IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO ACCEPT HIS LOSS AT THE POLLS BUT THAT HE STILL HAS A DISTINCT INTEREST IN SEEING AS MANY REFORMISTA PARTY CANDIDATES ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATURE AS POSSIBLE. HIS CONCERN HERE LAY PRIMARILY IN PRESERVING AN ORGANIC LAW WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE PASSED IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS PROVIDING FOR THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND IN PRESERVING LEGISLATION "INVOLVING THE OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE PROPERTY." AS FOR BALAGUER HIMSELF, HE INTIMATED THAT THE PROSPECT
CONFIDENTIAL

OF GOING INTBSTHE OPPOSITION AND LEADING HIS PARTY FROM THAT POSITION WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY DISTASTEFUL ONE FOR HIM AT THIS TIME.

5. PRESIDENT BALAGUER ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT THE FAILURE OF THE AMBASSADOR TO GO THROUGH CHANNELS IN SEEKING AMEETING WITH HIM THE MORNING AFTER THE ELECTIONS. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN UP UNTIL 6 A.. THE NIGHT BEFORE AND IT WAS REALLY DIFFICULT FOR VNYONE TO EXPECT HIM TO RECEIVE A FOREIGN AMBASSADOR UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED TO FERRE THAT THE ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN VIEW OF THE CRITICAL URGENCY OF THE TIMING OF THE APPROACH TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE COMPLETE INACCESSIBILITY OF "NORMAL" CHANNELS. IT WAS MAYOR FERRE'S IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS NOT A MAJOR CONSIDER-ATION AND ONE WHICH COULD BE OVERCOME WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

6. COMMENT. THE EMBASSY HAD ALREADY UNDERTAKEN STEPS TO RESTORE THE CONTACT IN THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD BEEN DISRUPTED BY THE EVENTS OF LAST WEEK INCLUDING AN INTIAL APPROACH TO SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EMILIO JIMENEZ FOR A CALL ON HIM WHICH HAS NOW TAKEN PLACE THIS MORNING (SEE SEPTELS). A RENEWED EFFORT WAS MADE FURING THE CALL ON JIMENEZ TO ACTIVATE THE REQUEST FOR

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THE AMBASSADOR TO SEE BALAGUER, WHICH HAS REMAINED WITHOUT
RESPONSE SINCE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS. JIMINEZ
THOUGHT THE TIMING WOULD NOW BE GOOD AND WE EXPECT TO BE HEARING
FURTHER FROM HIM. AMBASSADOR ALSO TOLD JIMENEZ HE PLANNED
INITIATE CALLS ON VICE PRESIDENT AND OTHER SECRETARIES OF STATE.
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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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